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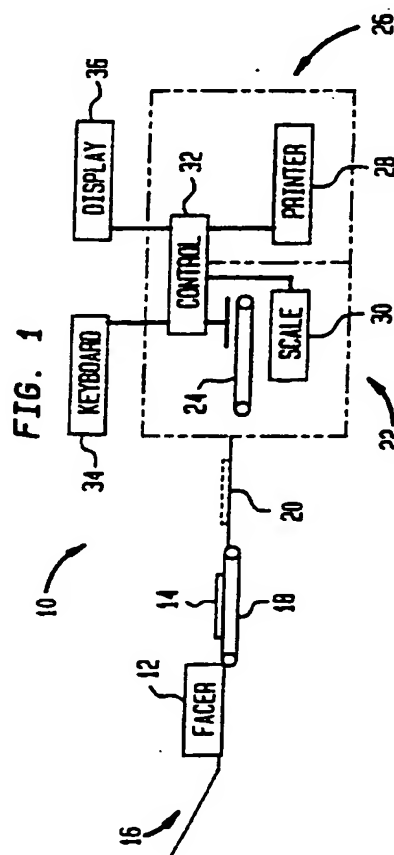
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(54) Mail processing system for verifying postage amount.

(57) The method and apparatus for verifying that the correct postage has been paid includes a mail processing machine which is adapted to receive properly oriented mail via a transport from a facer apparatus (42). The mail processing machine includes a scale (30) for weighing a mailpiece having postage affixed thereto for the purpose of cancelling it with a mark which includes the actual postage which should be affixed. In a further embodiment other information necessary to calculate the necessary postage is obtained by reading the information from the mailpiece. Any discrepancies between the postage affixed and the amount of postage which should actually be paid may be noted at acceptance or seen by the carrier as the mail is delivered. A batch of mail may be sampled to select representative mailpieces in a random manner and verified to compare the calculated total of postage required based on the sample to the postal amount paid for the batch by the sender.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 93 30 7603

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)
X	EP-A-0 356 228 (PITNEY BOWES INC.) * column 3, line 25 - line 57; claim 1; figure 1 *	1, 5, 13, 21	G07B17/02 G07B17/04
A, D	US-A-5 019 991 (SANSONE ET AL) * column 3, line 10 - line 44; figure 1 *	1-26	
A	US-A-3 938 435 (SUDA ET AL) * claim 1; figure 1 *	1-26	
A	US-A-4 934 846 (GILHAM) * claim 1; figure 4 *	1-26	
A, D	US-A-5 008 827 (SANSONE ET AL) * claim 1; figure 4 *	1-26	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)
			G07B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 March 1995	Examiner Kirsten, K
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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